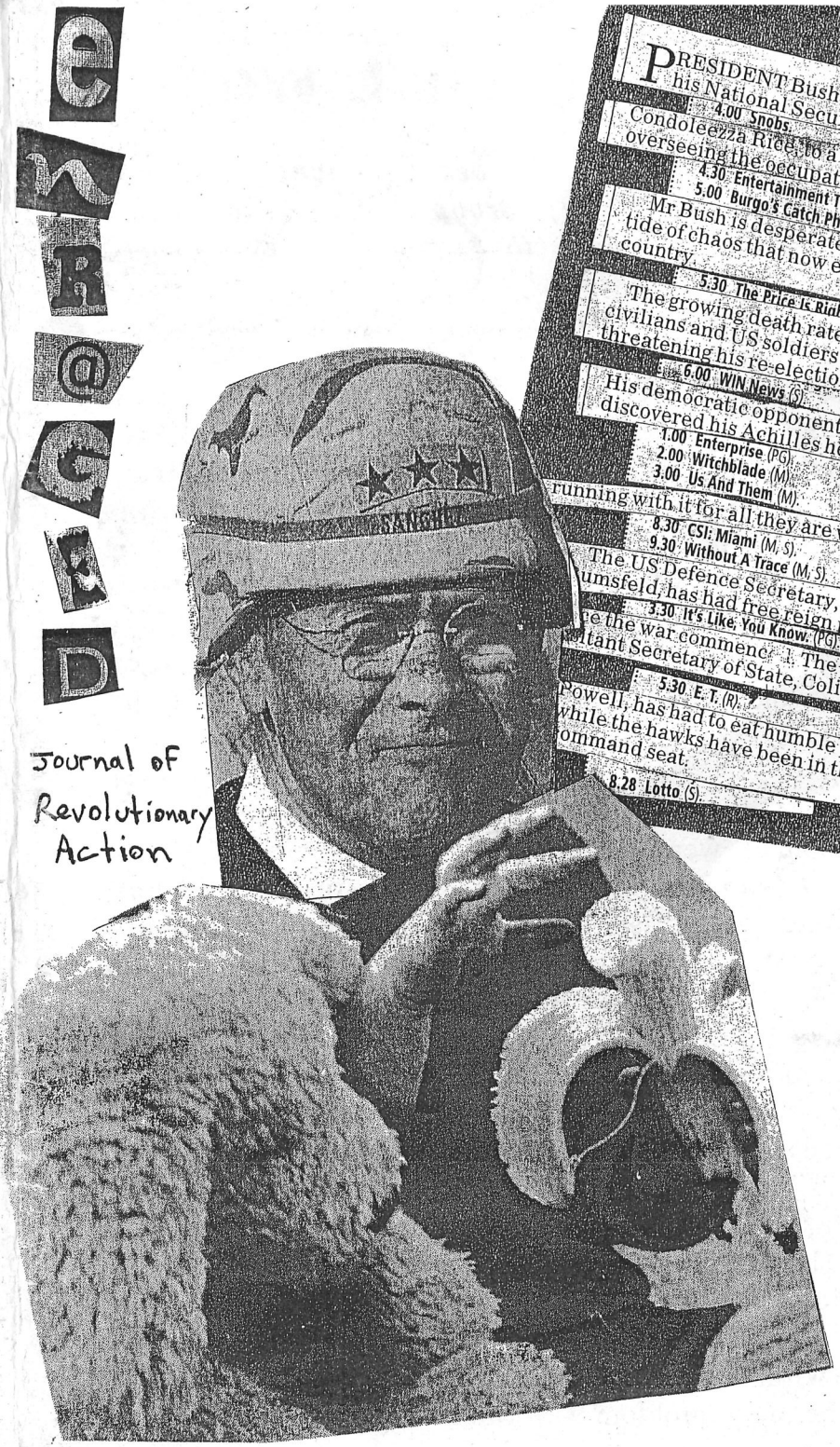
eXRAGED

Journal of Revolutionary Action


PRESIDENT Bush has appointed his National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, to a new body overseeing the occupation of Iraq.
Mr Bush is desperate to stem the tide of chaos that now envelops that country.
The growing death rate of Iraqi civilians and US soldiers is threatening his re-election chances.
His democratic opponents have discovered his Achilles heel and are running with it for all they are worth.
The US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has had free reign in Iraq since the war commenced. The more reticent Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has had to eat humble pie while the hawks have been in the command seat.
4.00 Snobs.
4.30 Entertainment Tonight.
5.00 Burgo's Catch Phrase.
5.30 The Price Is Right
6.00 WIN News (S).
1.00 Enterprise (PG).
2.00 Witchblade (M).
3.00 Us And Them (M).
8.30 CSI: Miami (M, S).
9.30 Without A Trace (M, S).
3.30 It's Like, You Know. (PG).
5.30 E.T. (R).
8.28 Lotto (S).

Summer 2003

revolt against war

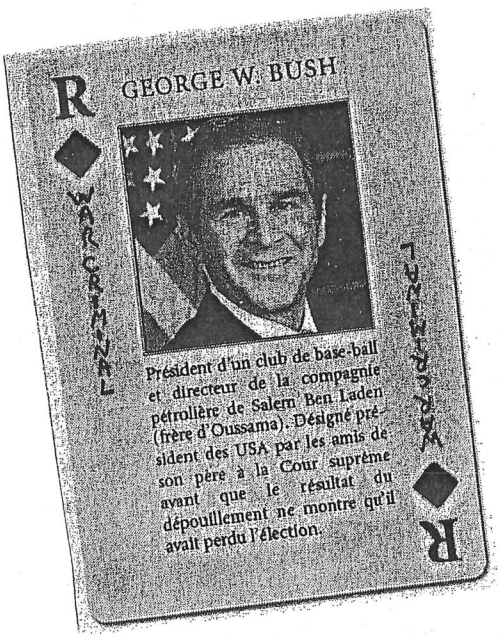
"Yet our best trained, best educated, best equipped, best prepared, troops refuse to fight. Matter of fact, it's safe to say that they would rather switch, than fight."

(Fight the power, Public Enemy)

In the last issue of enRAged I wrote about the rise of the global anti-war movement and some of the positive implications of our struggle against the invasion of Iraq. A few months on and the global struggle against war has not only seen a massive uprising of the Iraqi people but a growing revolt within the US armed forces, their families and communities. While these rebellions are diverse and contradictory, within them can be seen growing weaknesses for capital and its global war on the working class.

During the lead up to the invasion of Iraq many armed forces personnel were defiant by refusing anthrax shots, speaking out publicly against the war, refusing to fight, and thousands of British reservists rejected their call up. US troops quickly indicated that Vietnam traditions, like fraggin your officers, had not been forgotten. The first US casualties in the war were US army officers killed and wounded while still in Kuwait when a US soldier lobbed a grenade into their tent. Apparently the soldier, who decided to kill his commanders rather than Iraqis, was Muslim, as are many black troops, and was not as keen as his commanding officers were on a war on Islam. While clearly the war is not really about Islam, the rhetoric of US leaders which has portrayed the 'war on terror' as a Christian crusade has created major problems within the coalition of the killing. But this is far from the only problem US rulers now have with their

The Pentagons main war hero, Jessica Lynch, has helped further expose the true nature of the current war and the increasing militarisation of the US. Lynch was supposedly rescued from the Iraqis after being ambushed and subsequently raped and beaten by her captors. This story created by the Pentagon has now been exposed as a pack of lies. Lynch was hurt in an ambush but was then transported to an Iraqi military hospital where her life was saved by the medical personnel. She was not raped or beaten and the Iraqi medical staff gave Lynch their own blood to save her. When they tried to take her back to US forces in an ambulance they were shot at. US forces then stormed the hospital guns blazing to 'rescue' Lynch. There was no resistance to this US attack on a hospital and Lynch has thanked the Iraqi staff for saving her life.

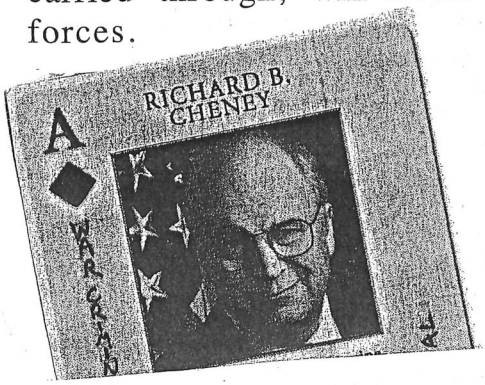

R
GEORGE W. BUSH
WAR CRIMINAL
Président d'un club de base-ball et directeur de la compagnie pétrolière de Salem Ben Laden (frère d'Oussama). Désigné président des USA par les amis de son père à la Cour suprême avant que le résultat du dépouillement ne montre qu'il avait perdu l'élection.
TERRORIST
R

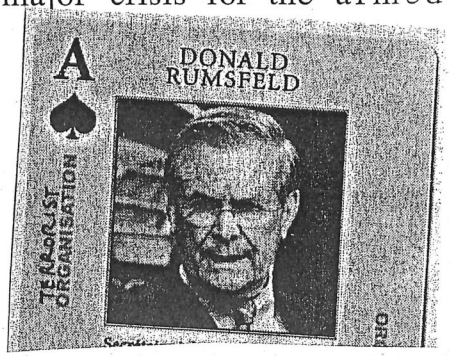
D
CONDOLEEZZA RICE
TERRORIST ORGANISATION
Spécialiste des appareils d'état soviétiques et américains. Administratrice de la Rand Corporation et de Chevron-Texaco. Actuelle conseillère de Sécurité nationale, elle supervise l'ouverture des marchés pétroliers par les armes.
TERRORIST ORGANISATION
D

Blond haired, blue eyed and white, Lynch became an instant media star, raking in millions of dollars and was awarded an 80% army pension. Fellow captive, Soshana Johnson, who is black and was shot in both legs, has not become a media star and was awarded a 30% pension. The story of these two women has demonstrated to many in the US that they are being duped. Unfortunately, due to increased impoverishment and rising unemployment many young people see little option but to join the forces to get a job and a wage. Also, as schools in poor communities continue to face severe cutbacks many are becoming militarised. More and more schools are being taken over by the armed forces who provide funds and resources in exchange for access to young people who can then be trained as soldiers from an early age and funneled into the war machine. And it appears that the US military will need as many new recruits as possible.

In the US court martials have already begun for Iraq war veterans who have gone AWOL. An internal survey shows that at least two percent of troops are not returning from their leave. To avoid troops deserting, leave is now often taken in Germany rather than the US, to make it more difficult to go AWOL. Again, just like in Vietnam, many troops are also reportedly self inflicting wounds to get home. The Armies own research shows that a third of troops are now demoralised. They are increasingly frustrated at their extended tours of duty, poor living conditions and constant fear and anxiety. An increasing number of troops are reported to be suffering from paranoia and mental illness resulting from things they have witnessed or done. The rising suicide rate amongst the troops is just one indicator of the seriousness of the situation. Many will have seen the US troops from the 3rd Infantry Division that captured

Baghdad on TV a few months ago calling for Rumsfeld's resignation. More recently a sergeant explained to the US TV audience back home "I've got my own `Most Wanted' list. The aces in my deck are Paul Bremer, Donald Rumsfeld, George Bush and Paul Wolfowitz." Now reporters can no longer interview soldiers. About half of US troops are indicating they will not re-enlist, which if carried through, will create a major crisis for the armed forces.





Resistance to the war has also spread throughout the troops families and communities. Campaigns such as Bring Them Home Now are gaining widespread support as increasing numbers of partners, children, mums and dads, siblings and neighbours, reject the war and defy it's architects. Many veteran's organisations are now linking up with current troops and their families, there are regular protests in military towns where more and more coffins are coming home. These protests are targeting pro-war politicians, US army bosses and the Bush administration. When the Fort Stewart base commanders organised a mass meeting of 800 spouses to explain the continuing deployment of troops frustrations boiled over into a near riot. One social worker on the base said: "They were crying, cussing, yelling, and screaming for their men to come back." A colonel had to be "escorted" out - to protect him from the soldiers' wives. The Bring Them Home Now coalition is just one group now articulating the demands of troops,

veterans and their families calling for; "Not one more troop killed in action. Not one more troop wounded in action. Not one more troop psychologically damaged by the act of terrifying, humiliating, injuring or killing innocent people."

US troops in Iraq are facing up to 43 attacks on them a day. Within a couple of weeks in the last month five US helicopters have been shot down. On November 4 the Washington Post, providing clear evidence of US media stupidity, reported that the situation in Iraq was "approaching war-like status"! On November 8 they reported that the "balance of power" was shifting towards the resisters. "American troops patrol less frequently, townspeople openly threaten Iraqi security personnel who cooperate with US forces, and the night belongs to the guerillas." The US troops and their puppet police generally stay in their fortified positions only venturing out to conduct lightning raids. Since they cannot identify 'the enemy' they increasingly rely on collective punishment of the people through search and destroy missions, sweeping round ups, house-to-house searches and indiscriminate attacks. After one US chopper was shot down the town where it occurred was bombarded with heavy weapons fire to "remind the town we have teeth and claws and we will use them." A report in the November 4 New York Times warned Bush that he needed to prepare the public for "images of the brutal measures our own troops will have to adopt."

Because troops cannot clearly identify their enemy they increasingly feel threatened by any Iraqi. Talk of liberation, freedom and democracy fade further and further into the background as military operations with names such as 'Iron hammer' seek to terrorise the local people into submission. This 'hearts and minds" operation involves bombing and missile terrorist attacks

on communities of resistance and sees US troops seal off whole neighbourhoods with armoured vehicles and helicopter gunships. TV pictures recently showed troops kicking in doors of the wealthy Azamiyah neighbourhood where 450 houses were searched over seven hours. The operation netted a few weapons, clearly meant for self defence. While 21 people from this neighbourhood were dragged off by the troops for illegal possession of weapons all were soon released. As Saudi Arabian engineer Samir al-Hadith explained to the media after the raid on his home, "Of course everybody has weapons. We have been robbed and we are afraid of the Americans."

While many troops believed the rhetoric of liberation, freedom and democracy, they are increasingly rejecting the reality of their role in enslaving the people of Iraq. Many of the young people in the US armed forces joined up in order to escape ghettos which are like combat zones where the police behave like an occupying force. They understand what it's like to be on the other side of the guns now trained on Iraq's neighbourhoods where social services are run down and order is imposed with an iron fist. US military commanders are well aware that they are facing a growing rebellion from their own troops. When Donald Rumsfeld visited Iraq he ventured no further than Baghdad airport. During his visit all Iraqis were removed from the area and sharp shooters were stationed on the roof of every building. According to US troops who now live in these buildings the sharp shooters were not there to defend against Iraqis, as they were unable to get past the Airport perimeter. The sharp shooters were there to defend Rumsfeld from the US troops stationed at the airport, who were warned that if they strayed outside their designated areas they would be shot.

The Iraqi people and US troops are now having to face up to a longterm war. While the Bush administration, Pentagon officials and their supporters, such as the Howard government, are desperately trying to train up Iraqi forces to ease the burden on US troops, this is also fraught with problems for all concerned. There will be little difference between a 'civil war' involving US troops and the situation now. What sort of Iraqi people are willing to cooperate with the occupying forces? After years of brutal dictatorship many Iraqis will fight hard to ensure that no new 'Iraqi security force' is given the power to torture and kill them again. US rulers must also be worried about the social impact thousands of traumatised, bitter, angry and defiant former troops returning to US civilian life will have. It appears that the US military and government maybe set to re-learn thier limitations in Iraq. As a New York Times foreign affairs columnist explains; "The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist. McDonalds cannot flourish without McDonald Douglas (the designer of the bombers that attack Iraq) and the hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley is called the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps." But, what happens if the revolt in Iraq and the US armed forces continues to grow? Can we not see how, when put under pressure, the power that helps hold the system in place can itself become defiant, rebellious and eventually switch?

Today, the question; How do you fight war? is being posed and answered more clearly than before. There are no simple answers to war and militarisation, yet there are many ways to fight against war. This can be seen by the determined and diverse actions of the working class across the globe. Militarisation is a society-encompassing process that seeks to generate obedience to authority, fear and a belief that the security of society can be

Tough trading conditions: US troops secure the front of an investment bank in the centre of Baghdad in the wake of the fall of Saddam Hussein.

guaranteed by the deaths of others. The growth of military power tries to intensify the soldier in all of us, our willingness to be ordered, obedient, monitored and to die and kill. But the militancy and power of the working class cannot be defeated by war and militarisation. As the defiance of the Iraqi people and US troops demonstrates, dictatorship and war will not crush us. As I said in my previous article, the working class is now generating new forms of activity and producing diverse and innovative ideas and practices. Faced with a growing sense of fear, the spectacle of militrarisation and the awesome power of global political and economic forces, more and more people are rejecting their bosses and the state and looking to self organisation as a response to terror and war. The response of the working class to war is to try and constitute itself as a uncontainable positive political force. During the current anti-war struggles we have seen a growing wave of disobedience, defiance and rebellion that should be inspiration to us all. Rather than terror, despair and war our answer is to generate collective actions of defiance, desire and love. *Peace Nick*

The Sick Puppy Syndrome

by Lindsay

There are certain myths that populate the collective Australian psyche and take root in the public mind, often based on the flimsiest of assertions. In the following comments, I would like to take issue with one of them - the common notion that Australian society suffers from the negative impact of a widespread distaste for celebrity status which we call the tall poppy syndrome.

For a long time now Australian society has widely perceived itself to display a harmful and destructive practice that indulges in acrimony and resentment directed towards those who have achieved fame and success.

Sardonically labeled the "tall poppy syndrome", it is generally understood to mean the initial encouragement and support of emerging talent in any given field, and then upon individuals achieving success, to be excessively and unfairly criticised, mocked and ridiculed for their perceived shortcomings as an envious reaction to their success. According to this line of thinking, the process is led largely by a cynical and sensationalist mass media who goad the public into expressing a mean-spirited contempt and bitterness towards high achievers and is only condemned by those few brave souls who stand up to the weight of this crushing milieu.

How widespread and pervasive is the phenomenon in actual fact though?

Sadly lacking in my opinion.

The underlying idea behind the notion of a tall poppy syndrome is that we are a nation of knockers all too ready to attack and undermine any one who rises above the level of the norm. That no-one has the right to laud it over the rest of us and that anyone who gets any funny ideas about being popular or talented in any way is a bit suspect, a bit of a wanker.

Would that it were so.

It is true that Australians are known for being laconic, laid back and generally rather iconoclastic and irreverent. As a contrast to the vulgar and boorish aspects of the "yobbo" mentality, Australians tend to be rather forthright and honest about expressing their views on a wide range of issues.

Sadly such issues rarely transcend such weighty matters as Warney's latest antics or the latest eviction on Big Brother. And where we do partake in political analysis, Australian's are just as susceptible to believing and regurgitating the tabloid rubbish that passes for news as any other nation's population, including the most outrageously reactionary and fundamentalist societies known, such as the US or Israel.

The larrikan element, much celebrated in Australian life, does indeed rejoice in exposing the pretensions and shortcomings of certain people in the limelight in an earthy, lighthearted way. But when it comes to serious matters such as people in power exercising authority over us using all the techniques at their disposal, the hapless and bewildered herd that constitutes the general population find themselves hopelessly compliant and all too willing to follow orders and do as they are told in accordance with that pervasive, but little remarked on Australian trait of servile submission to authority.

The mass media is often the target of blame by those who perceive to have been wronged by it. "A media beat-up" is a common refrain by individuals caught in scandals and who find themselves on the receiving end of the harsh glare of unwanted public attention focusing on their private lives. And beat-ups they undoubtedly are. The fact is, a vast industry has thrived and profited by detailing the irrelevant banalities of people's personal lives.

Some individuals in public life have certainly come in for more than their fair share of criticism. The shameful hounding and harassment of the left-wing QC and Whitlam Govt minister Lionel Murphy to his death in the 1980s being a particularly appalling case in point.

Unfortunately, the typical reaction from such media cannon fodder, understandable as it is, always focus on the single example of their own plight. What it not addressed in mainstream discourse is the consistent, long-term pattern of media machinations that turn people's personal stories into a real life soap opera in order to sell more papers and attract more viewers.

The subjects of scandals, generally selected at random, are grist for the mill of tabloid titillation. Sometimes the criticism is warranted, sometimes it is not. Either way, the very fact that such vast quantities of this

irrelevant rubbish warrants any comment at all, let alone attracts the wide audiences that it does is rather telling.

One deeply cynical and profoundly contemptuous response by the likes of Rupert Murdoch et al. is to piously claim that by serving up, day after day, such mindless junk, they are simply giving the public what it wants, and furthermore, that any talk of "dumbing down" or of "appealing to the lowest common denominator" reeks of elitism. In the same vein, it is claimed by these corporate bullies that we enjoy the vast shit piles of advertising that constantly interrupt our television viewing and pollute the airwaves and the skyline. Surely their cynicism knows no bounds.

If it is true, as is also claimed, that the teeming masses would eagerly tune in to the elicit thrill of sadistic torture and live executions etc. as a temporary escape from the drudgery of their dreary lives, it is far more likely that we would welcome any available information exposing the hypocrisy and deceit of those in power. Any public discussion at all of alternatives to the class based system of command control that continually usurps our power often meets with widespread interest and is sorely welcomed by large numbers of ordinary people. I suspect though that we will be waiting a long time before the ruling elite announce that this is what the public really wants.

As for movie stars, rock stars, celebrities and the whole assortment of stupid plasticine people foisted upon us by media corporations and held up as models of virtue and success; these degenerate paragons of onanistic self-indulgence are a walking smorgasbord of Freudian dysfunction and self-parody. In fact, the entire spectrum of rich and famous people presented to us in the media in the form of entertainers and profound sages of political and economic wisdom is filled with the most bizarre and twisted collection of neurotic freaks, vacuous airheads, unbalanced misfits, craven fascists and absolute fuckwits it is almost, (but not quite), possible to imagine. That these idiotic talking heads are invariably rich and influential, along with all the distorted perceptions of reality that goes with their fame and massively over-inflated egos, simply further adds to the decrepitude of any notion that they could possibly relate to us in any way, let alone be held up as role models to emulate or people worth listning to.

Without exception they have absolutely no useful information to impart to us on any topic what-so-ever; they are incapable of having any meaningful human contact for even one moment. They can only bounce of each other,

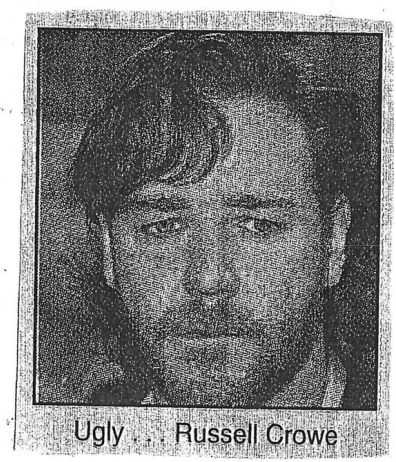
each inside their own bubble, each in their own parallel universe in which they probably imagine - and certainly act as if - they are God. They are in fact quite pitiable creatures not really worthy of scorn at all.

And yet scorn is what I feel.

This cartoon parade of concocted 'people' served up to us by an intellectually debased and completely corrupt mass media have nothing to offer us. They are parasites wasting our time and resources.

So I say let the tall poppy syndrome flourish. Let us break the strangle-hold of mindless repetition and banal inanity inflicted on us by the diseased minds of maladjusted behind-the-scenes manipulators and media proprietors. We have too much boring drudgery already in all the time stolen from us to have to put up with it in our precious leisure time as "entertainment".

To (rather ironically) paraphrase China's pre-eminent tall poppy: "let a 100 poppies bloom" ... and be cut down *in toto*. Let the insidious narcotic effect of these plastic people on the stupored slaves across unplanned suburban wastelands fade away leaving us with the clear and concise exercise of our inquiring, questioning minds, unencumbered by the useless junk peddled by these merchants of intellectual oblivion and spiritual death.


Ugly . . Russell Crowe

A-list

Protest

house price

slide

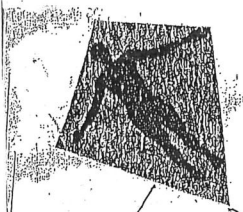
The Time of your Life.

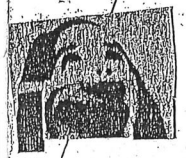
By Frew.

The past can only be examined.

The present can only be experienced.

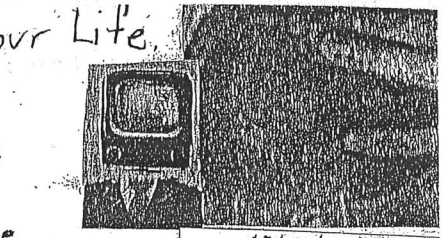
The Future is unknown.

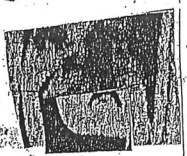




4LET

This bit is irrelevant





All time is now.

Everything leads to this point in time.

What are you going to do with your life?

The most common choice is to let life happen to you.

You go through school, possibly uni, get a job, spouse, family etc.

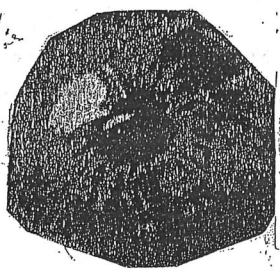
Grow old and die.

Life is organised that way, its easy.

Yet it feels shallow...

Electric lighting blots out the darkness.

Global Communications means that there is always somebody nearby.



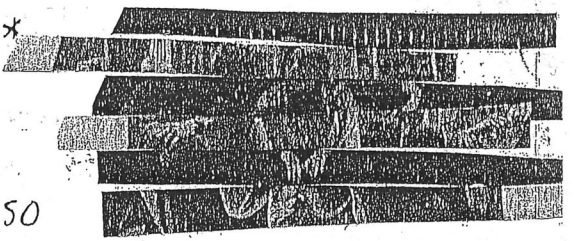
Eventually the Earth and there will be no stars, no energy there will be no life, There will be stasis. Stasis. Stasis.

Humanity has, for the time being (a mere blip in evolutionary terms) completely dominated all competitors in

Darwin's Survival of the Fittest TM

sounds like reality TV

Compared to most creatures throughout evolutionary history we have it good. (We got it the spoiled children of Murdoch good)



We have survival guaranteed*

* Guaranteed for life.

No wonder life feels so hollow.

All actions in daily life are largely meaningless because, atleast in the first world, most labour is superfluous to the actual life of the worker. (What relevance is the stockmarket to someone in the mail of the stock exchange?)

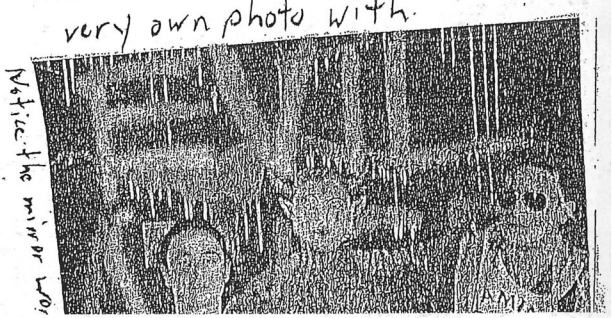
Will survival make your life meaningful?

you can't survive forever...

IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE YOU DIE WHAT WILL YOU THINK OF YOUR LIFE?

Did you survive? No.

Now You too can get your very own photo with



DID YOU LIVE?

if life is meaningless? mean anything

We all have (as far as we are conscious of) one life, one shot at achieving our desires. Waiting to be saved or 'sacrificing' for a better 'future' (Utopia) does nothing to realise your desires on this Earth.

To achieve what you desire, you need to do two things before you can really begin.

-One- Free yourself.

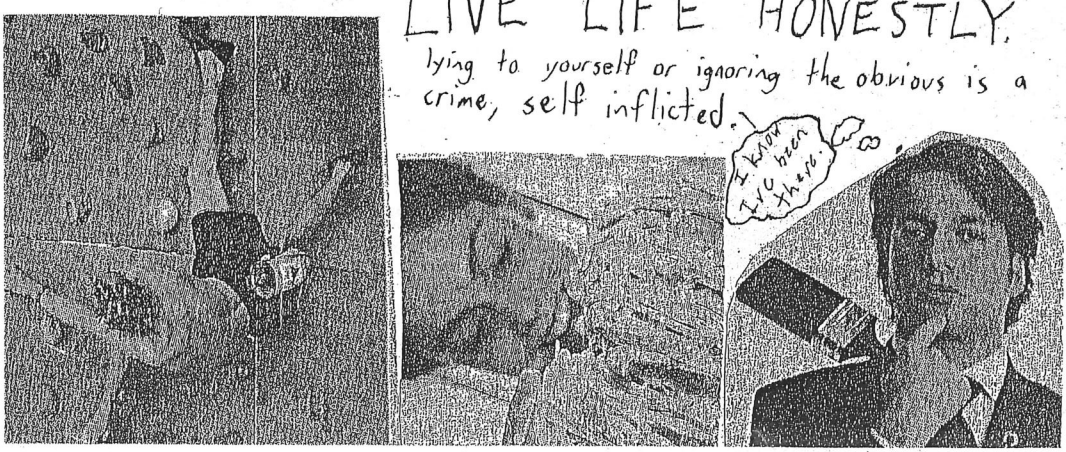
Take control of your own life. Declare yourself your own Master. No one can do this for you. It may require time, planning, and sacrifice on your own part but what do you have to lose? You have one life, you will die. Is a moments real hope worth more than a lifetime of pain?

Napoleon crowned himself Emperor. You too can crown yourself and be your own master. Just Take it.

You can take hope by a simple declaration:

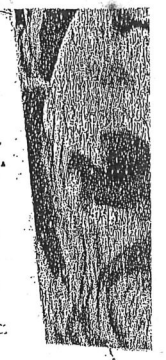
LIVE LIFE HONESTLY.

lying to yourself or ignoring the obvious is a crime, self inflicted.



-Two-

Once you control your own life you are in a position to decide <u>what you really want.</u>



You can not find happiness through possesions. they are but tools + trinkets and can be taken away. Possessions are a means.

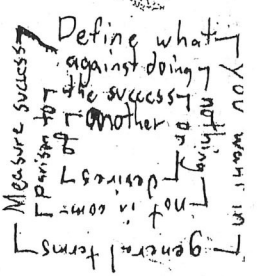
Don't do what you are expected to do unless it is what you really want.

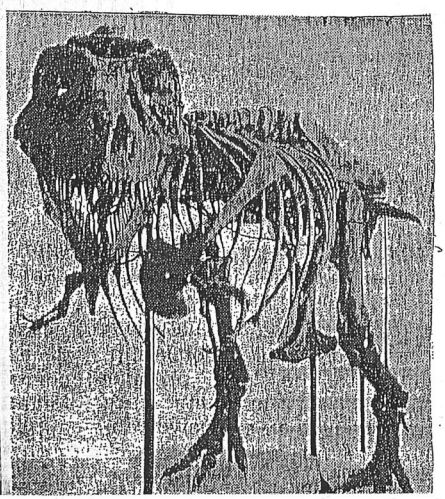
Follow your dreams.

Chase your desires.

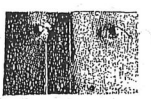
Once you know what you really want, you can begin.

The rest is up to you.


Define what you want in general terms
Measure success by comparing to others
Not in comparison to desires
Not having the success of another
against doing nothing



In 65 Million years this t could be you!!



Failure is a decision

Live life, love death and it all can be yours.

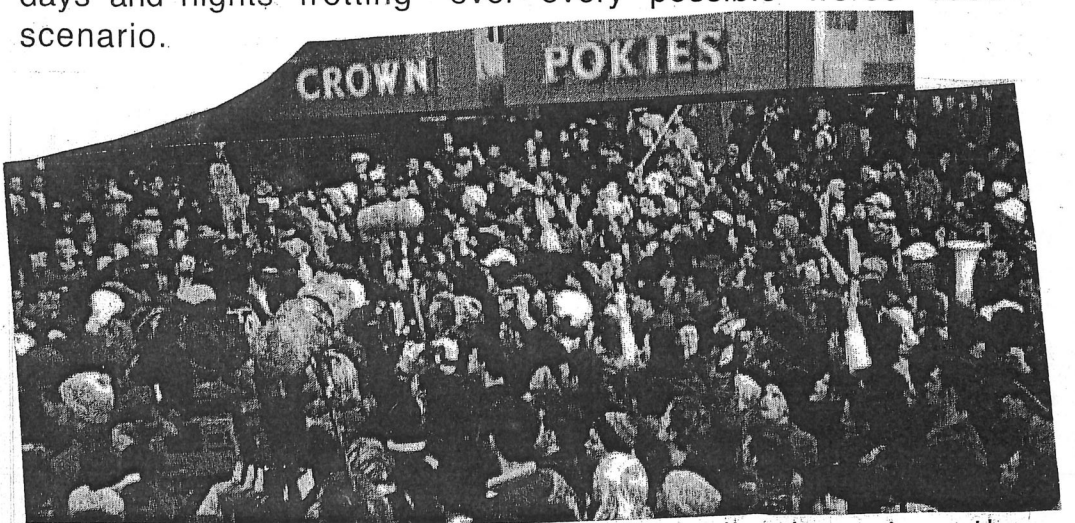
Watching S11 on TV

September the eleventh in the year 2000. This was s11. As part of a global uprising against neo-liberalism, Melbourne was the scene for one of the most amazing radical actions in Australian history. To all those who took part, in a spirit of rebellion, desire, defiance and liberation, thankyou.

Sadly I didn't make it to s11. As I was preparing to go, my landlord (bastard!) decided that he wanted to kick my family out of our home and put the rent up. So, while I was considering whether I could go to blockade the World Economic Forum, where the rich and powerful would discuss and decide how to continue to destroy our lives, the harsh world of capitalist social relations threw my life into more chaos. During the months leading up to s11, I was involved in the Wollongong s11 collective, which helped to organise in preparation for the actions in Melbourne. Many local people took part in the collectives activities, which included many meetings, forums, film nights, shows, education, blockade training and the wide distribution of information about s11 and the fight against 'corporate tyranny'.

Around 100 people traveled from Wollongong to Melbourne for the s11 days of action. On Thursday (s7) I got up at 6am and headed down to the trade union centre to help see off the first group of local s11ers. Twenty people, many of them my friends, packed their bags, food and camping gear onto the bus and after having a cuppa or a bit of breakfast, headed off to Melbourne. On Saturday (s9) I was again

seeing off people, who were going in the second Wollongong s11 bus. One of my friends had his mobile phone with him and I implored him to ring me every hour on s11. "No, in fact, why don't you just ring at the beginning of the blockade and just leave the phone on until the end," I said. For days I had found it difficult to sleep, tossing and turning, as I drifted in and out of dreams of police attacks and injured blockaders. As the last bus left and disaapeared around the corner, I was expecting to feel some relief after the months of intense and anxious preparation. But that was not to be. I spent the next two days and nights fretting over every possible worse case scenario.



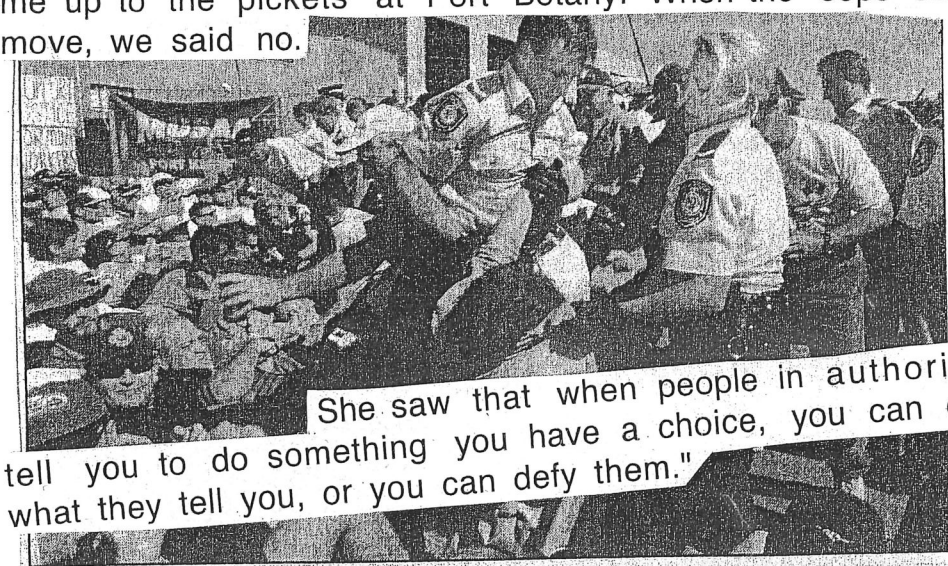
On Monday s11 I got up early and immediately put on the radio. It wasn't until 9am that a report came through from Melbourne. "Thousands of people have blockaded every entrance into Crown Casino, severely disrupting the meeting of the World Economic Forum. Several protestors have been injured. The protest began turning ugly when mounted police and other officers moved in." My initial reaction was a mixture of excitement, anxiety and anger. The news that the blockade was successful, that more than ten thousand people had joined in and bravely faced off the cops, was a total rush. The fact that the cops had attacked, that people were hurt and that my friends were there, made me feel sick.

There was no day long mobile phone calls and I was unable to contact anyone I knew at the blockade, all day. That night I stood and watched the TV news showing some of the police attacks. I watched WinTV, channel 9, 7, SBS and the ABC. "Violent protest/protestors, unAustralian" they shrieked as the pictures showed cops batoning people and riding into them with horses. The next day, the morning news broadcast announced that many blockaders had been "taken to hospital after the police broke through the blockade using batons, motorcycles and horses." That night my daughter and I again watched the TV screen fill with images of police violence. Riot police waded into the blockades, swinging batons, beating people and the cameras panned around to show some of the resulting injured and bleeding blockaders. My horror was broken by a series of quick questions from my daughter. "Whose there daddy? Is Dave there? Was that Alexander?" Her thoughts were a mirror of my own, as I scanned the crowd hoping not to see anyone I knew. "No, sweetie," I assured her, "there are lots of people there. I'm sure our friends are alright." I lied, as much to reassure myself as her. But it made no difference. Those people being beaten were my friends, whether I knew them or not.

I watched every TV news broadcast I could during the three days of the blockade, often jumping from one channel to the next trying to catch as much footage as possible in a state of excitement and dread. I tried to stand in front of the TV to sheild my youngest daughter from the images of police violence. But there was no hiding my anxiety or that of the rest of the family. Watching the news of s11 reminded me of the day we saw the attacks on the Patrick's dockers flash across the screen. As the images of security thugs dragging workers from their jobs were beamed into our loungeroom, I stood stunned, cursing and loudly exclamining amazement as the darkened docks swarmed with hired goons, dogs and fear. The impact of

this short news piece really hit me when my dauhter asked me; "What's happening daddy?" I started raving emotionally about how this was a fascist attack by the Government and the bosses, but the look on her face made me stop. I was in despair and she knew it. What could I say to reassure her and myself? We had friends who worked on the docks and we had been preparing for this attack for over a year. She had heard our endless discussions about the army and police preparations to break the wharfies and how we were going to try and stop them. "We are going to fight those bastards darling," was all I had. The next night the pickets were set up and I was at Port Botany nervously waiting for the police to come and try to break through. It was a long cold night that first night outside the darkened dock on a lonely road by Botany Bay. As the wind blew in from the sea, chilling us to the bone, we stamped our cold feet and tried to warm our hands by the fire. The picket that night was mainly made up of relatively young wharfies and communists. We were expecting an attack to come at any time. People didn't talk much, but nervous anticipation was on everyones face. We knew why we were there and the tension made it clear we were expecting and prepared to fight. Various obstacles had been created, things to assist a struggle had been gathered and occasionally a few of the young wharfies would throw something over the fence at the company goons. In the early hours of the morning word came that 'they' were coming to try and break the picket. Would it be cops, thugs, the army? We waited and we waited. The night wore on and on until eventually day broke. That night they didn't come

My eldest daughter doesn't like cops. When she was very little we were on a demo in Wollongong when a cop grabbed me and I had to struggle free. Ever since she has had a fear and hatred of police. But, I don't want my kids to grow up in fear. Why should they have the threat of violence hanging over their heads whenever the powerful decide to teach them a lesson about who is boss. I'm sick of school principals and teachers complaining about my daughters defiance, when she questions their authority. They don't like the fact that she has a sense of power and self confidence, which we have tried to help her build, to protect her from abuse. They try to break her spirit, because she has an independent mind and a strong will and she will talk back when she feels the situation deserves it. They don't like it. But I am proud that she fails to obey instructions when she feels they are wrong. One day, I was called in to see the principal of her school. It was the same old question; "Why is your child so defiant?" After listening to what had happened, I pointed out that it was her teacher who had done the wrong thing and that my daughter was standing up for herself because no-one else at the school was. "Look," I said, "last week she came with me up to the pickets at Port Botany. When the cops said move, we said no.

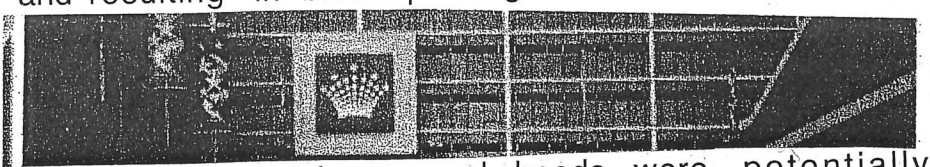


She saw that when people in authority tell you to do something you have a choice, you can do what they tell you, or you can defy them."

Police move in to break up a picket line at the Port Botany waterfront.

As we watched s11 on TV that's what I wanted to do. I wanted to jump ino the screen and join the blockade. I wanted to defy the police and help the injured and those under attack. Standing powerless in front of the TV also reminded me of an article I once read which described watching television as a form of death worship. As the images of fascistic looking riot police smashing people's heads in, blurred into ads for McDonalds and pain killers, I felt my nausea rising again. For many people s11 was a near death experience. But, I wish I had been there. Because s11 was also a transforming joy and a taste of the possible. Of a world where people stand together, support each other, struggle to make life better, share and care. s11 re-awakened many people's imaginations and gave them some freedom and power to challenge the corporate reality that the police attacks sought to reimpose.

During the days of action in Melbourne, five hundred blockaders had to be treated by medical officers. Many of them were so badly injured by the police that they had to be hospitalised. People were repeatedly beaten with batons, cracking their heads open, smashing their teeth out and resulting in blood pouring from their ears. These



attacks to people's faces and heads were potentially lethal. The police also deliberately trampled people with horses and ran into and over them with unmarked police cars. The fact that they didn't kill anyone, during these

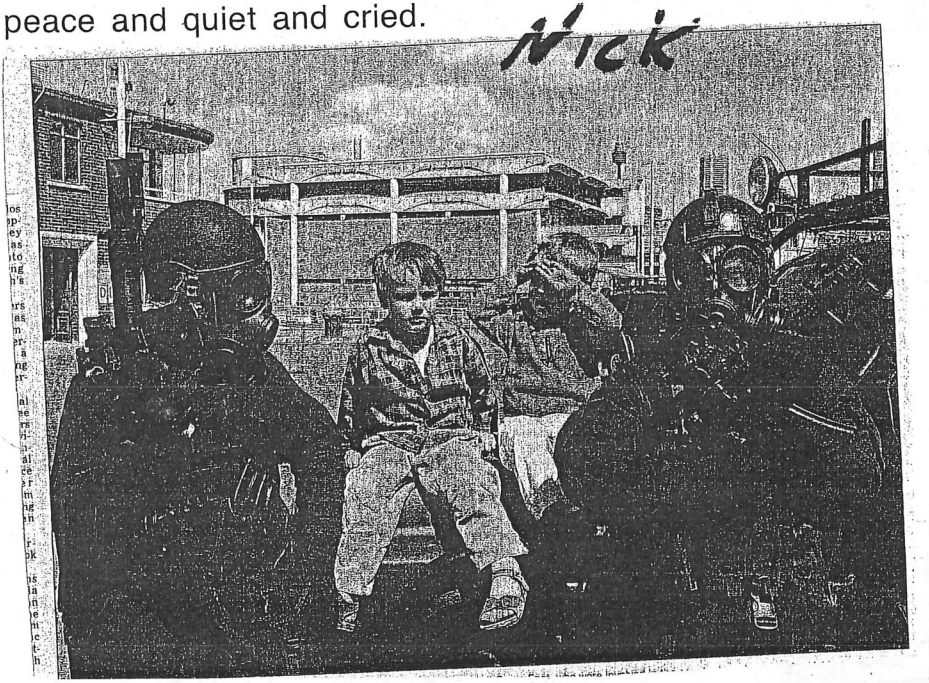
viscious attacks, was pure luck. This ultra-violent police operation had been planned for nearly two years and involved a sophisticated barrage of media lies and distortions. Yet, the frenzied TV, radio, press, political and police campaigns to prepare for and create violent attacks, failed to deter thousands of people. They bravely defied the largest police operation in Victorian history.

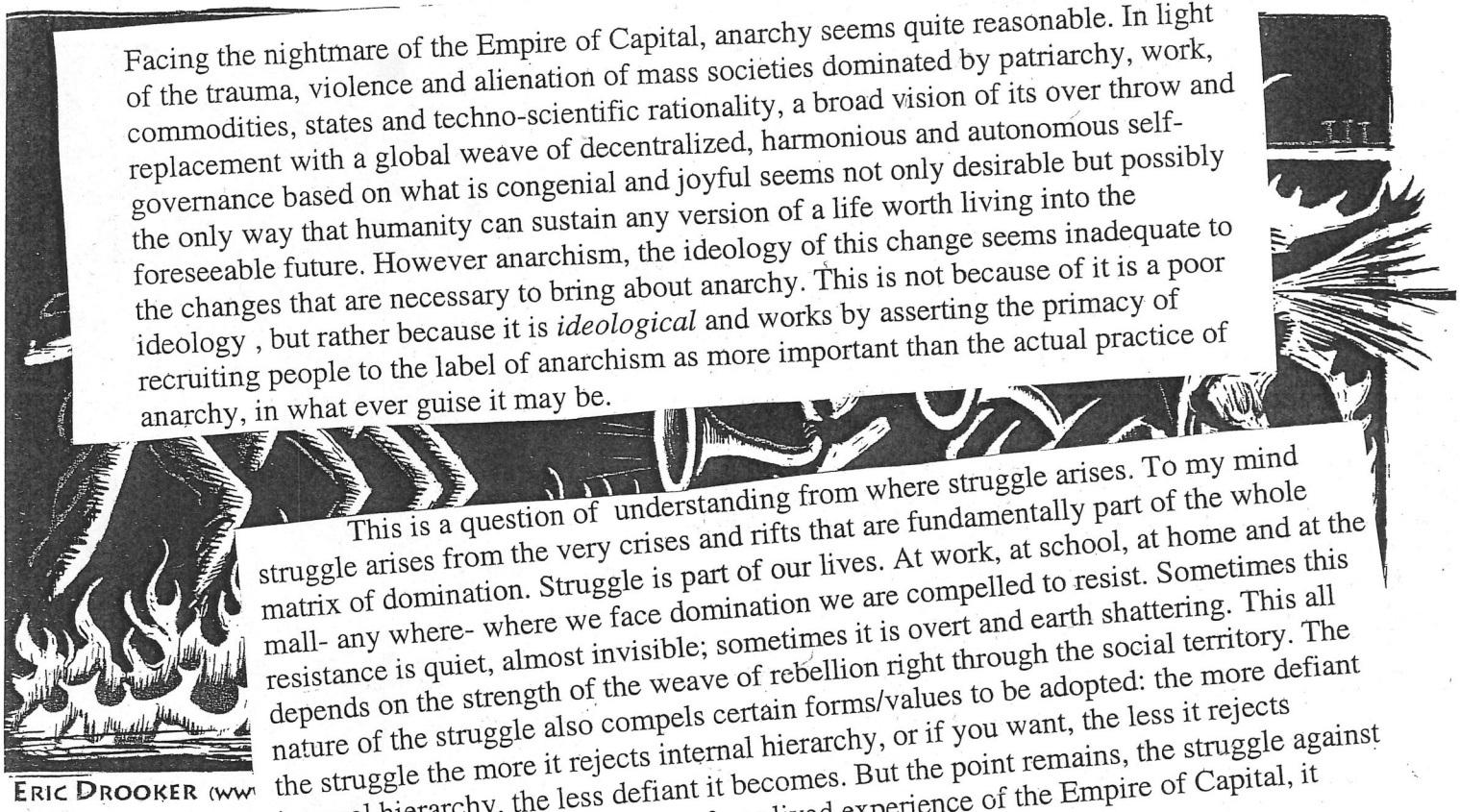
melbourne crown casino september 11 - 13
global justice
is coming - prepare now!
Wollongong s11 Collective
meets Mondays at 6pm
in the Ironworkers building
325 Crown St, Wollongong
s-11
PTO for more info
seattle + washington = melbourne
COUNTDOWN to the WEF shutdown : 9am september 11

Of the local people who went down to s11, three were arrested, two charged with criminal damage (for gluing a padlock), some had severe bruising from being hit and kicked by cops or horses and one had a dislocated shoulder. Many, when they returned to Wollongong, were suffering various degrees of post traumatic stress. On their return I spent a number of days talking with people who had been attacked by police, seen other people severely injured or had stood for hours waiting for the masses of police to attack again. On the Saturday morning after everyone got back it was a beautiful spring day. I sat in the botanical gardens with one of the people who had helped provide medical aid to those hurt by the police. This young man had seen much of the results of the police attacks. As we sat

on the grass under a shady tree with birds flying overhead and children playing nearby, he described helping people with blood pouring from head wounds and other experiences that sounded like they were from a war zone. As I listened I wanted to help reassure him and offer my support if he needed it. Yet, as I did, I knew that nothing I could say would make him feel safe from the state organised violence that continually darkens our lives.

I went home to my family and spent the rest of the weekend trying to have fun, rest and relax. My daughters and I were happy to know that all of our friends were relatively OK and we played together in the sunshine. But, my mind was still full of s11, the images, feelings and thoughts of that week in September. I will never foget the experience of watching s11 on television and those days of nervous excitement and worry. The feelings of powerlessness and power, of anxiety and exhiliration, of fear and anger, of sadness and joy. A few days after sitting in the botanical gardens, everyone in the family went out and I was left alone in our home. I sat in the peace and quiet and cried.





Facing the nightmare of the Empire of Capital, anarchy seems quite reasonable. In light of the trauma, violence and alienation of mass societies dominated by patriarchy, work, commodities, states and techno-scientific rationality, a broad vision of its over throw and replacement with a global weave of decentralized, harmonious and autonomous self-governance based on what is congenial and joyful seems not only desirable but possibly the only way that humanity can sustain any version of a life worth living into the foreseeable future. However anarchism, the ideology of this change seems inadequate to the changes that are necessary to bring about anarchy. This is not because of it is a poor ideology , but rather because it is *ideological* and works by asserting the primacy of recruiting people to the label of anarchism as more important than the actual practice of anarchy, in what ever guise it may be.

This is a question of understanding from where struggle arises. To my mind struggle arises from the very crises and rifts that are fundamentally part of the whole matrix of domination. Struggle is part of our lives. At work, at school, at home and at the mall- any where- where we face domination we are compelled to resist. Sometimes this resistance is quiet, almost invisible; sometimes it is overt and earth shattering. This all depends on the strength of the weave of rebellion right through the social territory. The nature of the struggle also compels certain forms/values to be adopted: the more defiant the struggle the more it rejects internal hierarchy, or if you want, the less it rejects internal hierarchy, the less defiant it becomes. But the point remains, the struggle against the Empire of Capital, arises out of our lived experience of the Empire of Capital, it doesn't need to be injected from outside.

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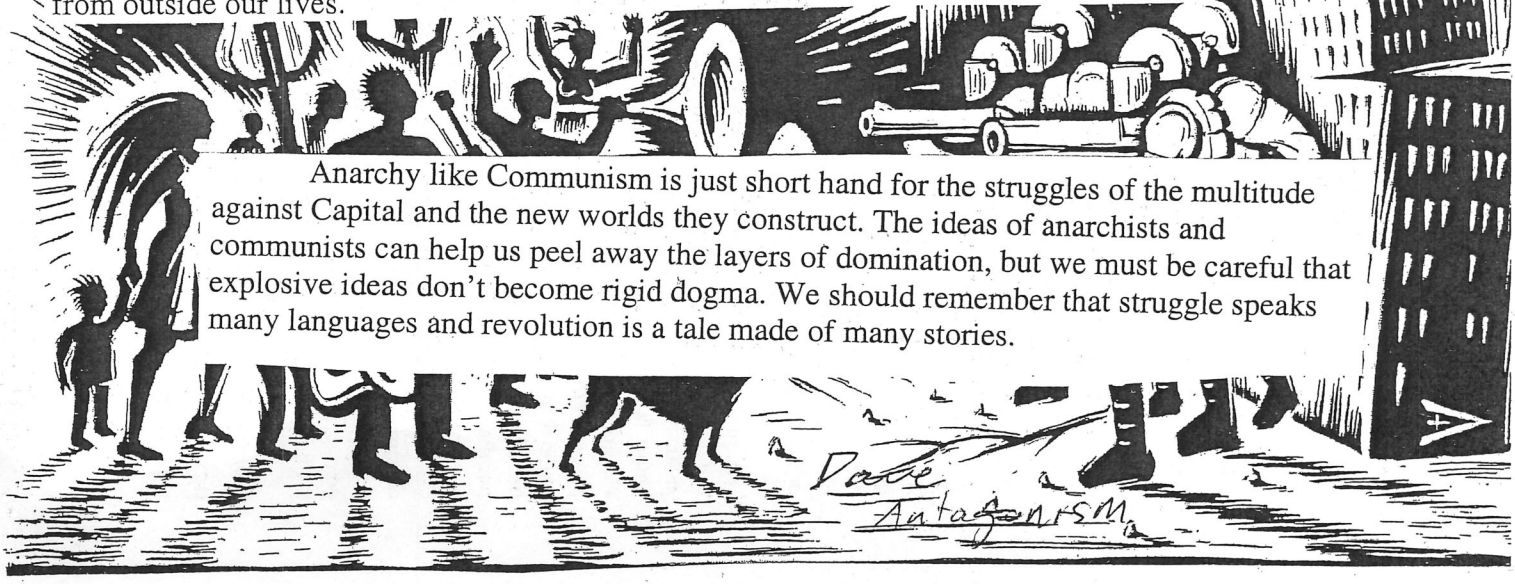
This is not to say that ideas are not important. Ideas are crucial. They are fundamentally part of our revolt against capital and as the class begins to rise, more and more discussion goes on inside it. Lived revolutionary theory comes to us through struggle, on street walls, in weighty tomes, in whispered conversations, in glances on the picket line, in song – increasing in volume as the struggle deepens.

Anarchism on the other hand lifts theory out of the context of struggle and transforms it into a central identity that people must conform to. Anarchism is Leninism minus the party: revolutionary consciousness must still come from out side the class; from outside our lives.



Anarchy like Communism is just short hand for the struggles of the multitude against Capital and the new worlds they construct. The ideas of anarchists and communists can help us peel away the layers of domination, but we must be careful that explosive ideas don't become rigid dogma. We should remember that struggle speaks many languages and revolution is a tale made of many stories.

What is Revolutionary Action?

Revolutionary Action (RA) has been established by a group of people committed to a revolutionary transformation of society based on the united power of the working class. To achieve this aim we support the self- mobilisation and self - organisation of the working class, who make up the vast majority of society. RA believes that only the collective democratic action of the oppressed can create a society based upon the fullest possible political democracy.

RA is for people who call themselves anarchists, socialists, communists or whatever, to come together and fight against capitalism and it's effects. Revolutionary Action is a collective not a political party. Within the boundaries that the collective explicitly believes, that the way to create a better world is through revolutionary workers' self-liberation, the greatest amount of pluralism and debate is encouraged. Decisions of the collective may be publicly disagreed with and openly challenged by individual members or factions formed where a group of members disagree with the majority. RA has no central body and no hierarchy. All decisions are made by the general membership and any administrative positions are without privilege, recallable and will only exist to administer decisions of the membership.

RA supports the development of action and ideas that promote the concept of self management and try to counter and prevent bureaucracy, hierarchy and elites from emerging in our movement. We envisage a successful revolution being the result, not of a forcible seizure of state power nor the winning of an election, but of mass democratic action. RA wants to help build working class power. We do not seek leadership, but rather, try to assist ongoing struggles while drawing out and articulating their revolutionary implications. RA wants to be a flexible and innovative organisation that can help to educate and organise people. We aim to create, maintain and broaden networks in the revolutionary movement and try to incorporate into every aspect of our practice democracy, an absence of authoritarianism or hierarchy. Through a democratic, militant and dynamic struggle against capitalism we aim to help transform ourselves, our class and the world. Revolutionary Action wants to help make it possible for people to gain control of their everyday lives and to help make life as marvelous and fulfilling as it can be.

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